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PRE-BERLIN CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENTS - III

Soviet Propaganda Indicates Uncompromising Position at Berlin: The press summary of an article in the Soviet periodical Kommunist describes an uncompromising Soviet position on East-West issues. It states that: (1) no real relaxation of international tensions can be brought about except through five-power efforts; (2) there can be no effective international security system without Soviet participation; (3) a German solution must be based on the Potsdam agreement and the views of the USSR expressed in its notes on the German issue over the last eighteen months.

A Moscow radio commentary by Leontyev calls a five-power conference "urgent and essential". Without Chinese participation, the settlement of important international problems, particularly those in Asia, is held impossible.

A Pravda article by Alexandrov calls on France to adopt an "independent foreign policy". It says that European states, particularly Germany's neighbors, must consider that ensuring their security against German aggression is a vital task. Ambassador Bohlen has cited this article as further evidence that the USSR will raise the question of European security at Berlin.

East Germany Forms Committee To Deal With Problems Of German Unity: The East German Council of Ministers on 7 January announced the formation of a committee to deal with all questions connected with the preparation of a peace treaty and with the restoration of a "democratic, peace-loving, and independent" Germany. Deputy Premier Loch, a Liberal Democrat, was appointed chairman of the committee and Albert Norden, a leading East German propagandist, was appointed secretary. The decision to establish this committee indicates that East Germany is preparing a position on the question of German unity which it may hope to present at the four-power conference.

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